

Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee

October 26, 2016

2:30pm – 4:30pm

EOPSS, Transportation Building

Minutes

JJAC Attendance: Bob Gittens (Chair), Cecely Reardon (Vice Chair), Dr. Judith Bevis, Dr. Mark Booher, Ruth Budelmann, Wesley Cotter, Glenn Daly, Margie Daniels, Kanchana Fernando, Keith Lane, Amanda Moran, Gaetano Mortillaro, Janelle Riddley.

EOPSS Attendance: Angela Davis, Ednei Furtado, Doug Levine, Undersecretary Jennifer Queally, Andrew Polk.

Guest Attendance: N/A

Agenda:

1. Welcome/Introductions
2. Approve Minutes
3. Trauma-Informed Practices Event Discussion
4. Discussion re JABG Funds
5. Open Meetings Law Q & A
6. Subcommittee Reports
7. Annual Report Update
8. FACJJ Update
9. CJJ Update
10. CJJ dues for 2017 - \$5000
11. Discussion re Composing the FY17 Three Year Plan
12. Discussion of Date for JJAC Annual Retreat
13. Announcements:
 - a. Open Meetings Law Certifications
 - b. Next meeting at DYS in Worcester
 - c. Comments re Proposed JJDPa Regulations

Handouts: Agenda, Minutes, JABG Purpose Areas, Sample Annual Reports, Open Meeting Law Guide, Concept Paper on Trauma Informed Care.

The meeting opened with a welcome from Chair Gittens and **introductions** by all in attendance.

The **minutes** of the prior meeting were approved.

Glenn Daly of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) presented ideas on how the JJAC can help plan for, support and convene a **statewide event on trauma-informed care** for at-risk and system-involved children. Mr. Daly talked about the process and agencies (such as the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Early Education and Care,

etc.) that were involved in creating a statewide plan for trauma-informed care. There is a core team that Mr. Daly suggested should work with the JJAC Best Practices Subcommittee to plan for and convene an event in the Spring of 2017. The goal of work on this issue and related event will be to improve awareness of best practices and to enhance networks between relevant stakeholders to better identify and serve traumatized youth.

Andrew Polk led the discussion regarding the potential **uses of remaining FY13 Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) funds**. There is \$294,000 in JABG funds. EOPSS will make the final decision on how to use the funds. Currently, there is \$240,000 set-aside to fund the Executive Office of the Trial Court (EOTC) remedies for improving sight and sound separation between juvenile and adult detainees in the court holding facilities. EOPSS is waiting to hear back from the EOTC as to whether they will be able to make use of the funds within the required time period. If the EOTC is able to use the full \$240,000 there will be \$54,000 remaining. Possible uses of the funds include: supporting one of the Bristol County Juvenile Court juvenile drug courts; funding the Municipal Police Training Committee to conduct trainings for officers on juvenile-related matters such as substance abuse or implicit bias, funding restorative practices in schools, etc.

The next agenda items addressed were **subcommittee reports**. Dr. Mark Booher reported on the activities and plans of the **DMC Subcommittee**. This subcommittee has been looking at racial disparities in school discipline practices. Black and Latino youth are suspended at higher rates than White youth. The subcommittee also intends to study disparities in school-based arrests. The subcommittee hopes to be able to support programs and initiatives (such as the restorative practices in Denver and Boston schools) to reduce the use of school exclusions and arrests, especially for youth of color.

Mr. Polk reported on the activities and plans of the **Best Practices Subcommittee**. The Best Practices Subcommittee will work with the core team on trauma-informed care that Mr. Daly is part of to help plan an event and promote best practices regarding recognizing and serving traumatized youth. In addition, the subcommittee will likely draft legislative testimony similar to last year's on the issues of juvenile competency to stand trial and expungement of juvenile records.

Regarding the **JJAC Annual Report**, Mr. Polk passed around Alaska's most recent State Advisory Group (SAG) Annual Report which had been emailed to the JJAC with other states' reports an example of how to reformat and make more readable the JJAC's Annual Report. The committee agreed that Alaska's report was one that is good to model. Mr. Polk will prepare a draft for the December JJAC meeting.

Mr. Polk updated the committee on the **Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice (FACJJ)** and its purpose to provide recommendations on juvenile justice matters to the President. Dr. Kimberly Larson was re-elected to serve on the FACJJ for another term.

Vice Chair Cecely Reardon described the work, purpose and re-structuring of the **Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ)**. CJJ has recently been restructuring itself due to changes in funding sources. CJJ is hosting a conference on DMC in December.

Chair Gittens discussed the matter of paying **CJJ dues**. There was a **motion** to pay the 2017 CJJ dues (\$5000) which was seconded and passed.

Mr. Polk discussed the **Three Year Plan**. A Three Year Plan (update year) will likely be due in the Spring of 2017. Mr. Polk suggested that the subcommittees could discuss ideas for what activities the FY17 Three Year Plan should include, recommend the ideas to the Executive Subcommittee and present them to the full JJAC during its February meeting.

The committee decided that a Friday in April is the best time to have the **JJAC Annual Retreat**. Mr. Polk will work on getting a facilitator and a location.

The **December JJAC meeting** will be at a DYS facility in Worcester. The meeting will be from 3pm – 5pm with a tour of the facility prior to the meeting. A 3pm start time for the JJAC meetings is better for youth members than an earlier start time.

Undersecretary Queally suggested that JJAC members be selected to present at meetings about their work. For example, Ms. Moran and Ms. Fernando could discuss their roles as a juvenile public defender and a juvenile prosecutor.

Members who have not yet submitted their **Open Meeting Law Certification** were provided with the Open Meeting Law Guide and were asked to complete and submit the certification.

Mr. Polk informed the committee that the committee's comments on the **proposed regulations** regarding the JJDPA of 2002 were submitted and posted on www.regulations.gov.

The meeting was adjourned.